

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the
American Philatelic Society
Chapter 118 of the American Topical Assn.

Meeting Begins at 7:00, Wednesday, 12 February 2014

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. Joy Bouchard, Hostess

Doors Open at 6:30-Come Early to Buy, Sell, and/or Trade

From the Desk of the President

A special thanks to all club members that participated in the January auction. There were several comments as to how the past two auctions have produced excellent products and increased interest. Our next auction is in May, so please continue to prepare for it and keep the momentum. We had an officers and board meeting on Monday, January 13th with several Lancopex committee members in attendance. Preparations for Lancopex-2014 are well underway. The meeting produced few surprises. We had updates and tasks for future shows to improve dealer participation and ultimately, attendance. Also in attendance was Truude Greiner who suggested we review and update

the club bylaws. We hope to have a draft copy for club discussion and subsequent approval at future meetings. The goal is for all officers, board members, and present and prospective club members to have a hard copy of the updated bylaws in hand for immediate reference.

With at least two months of cold weather ahead of us, it's a good time to work on our collections. In doing so, I was recently introduced to "Poster Stamps." This is a term for a variety of "Cinderella Stamps," and every country produced them. Many of the early vintage issues are extremely well detailed and ornate. These could be of special interest to collectors of

World War I and WWII, patriotic themes, country collections, and a variety of other topical interests. To view some examples, just google a topic under "poster stamp," or consult eBay. There are hundreds of them to view online.



Our next meeting is February 12th. Our hostess is Joy Bouchard. The subject is *Canal Zone Gems*. PSLC's newest member, Brian Wagner will show us a computer program to make album pages. See you there, and stay warm! *Len*

APS: Canal Gems... Plus-Making Album Pages

□ RD Noble and Paul Petersen will take on the vast digital audiovisual empire to bring about the APS DVD program entitled *Canal Zone Gems*. 2014 is the 100th Anniversary of the Canal. The material in this program is from the period beginning in 1903, when the U.S. began to lease the Canal Zone from Panama, to 1928, when the Canal Zone started issuing its own definitives rather than overprinting U.S. stamps. The effects of the Canal Zone's political situation on its postal history and

stamps are of interest. Emphasis is on errors and overprints, as well as postage dues and air mail stamps.

□ Following the Canal Zone presentation, Brian Wagner has prepared a brief talk and demonstration for using a personal computer and printer to make a variety of album pages. There will be samples for you to view via his computer on the big screen. It is called Stamp Albums Web, and this can be found on the internet at www.stampalbums.com



Volume 77, No. 2

February, 2014

Highlights

- Poster Stamps in '14
- Canal Zone Gems
- Visit to APS
- Sherman's Rant
- Computer Album Pgs.
- Happy Valentine's Day
- Program Additions
- Displays for Lancopex
- Philatelic Cinderellas
- Washington's Cover

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Bluebird Commons in Woodcrest Villa, 2001 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA 17601 at 7:00 PM. Dues are \$10.00. For club info, call Lucy Eyster: 717.735-2586

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Happy Valentines Day



When asked who you would like for Valentine's Day, just request heart stamps and covers! On the above seal is written: "Rheumatic Heart Disease-RHD-Lancaster, PA 1948." Similar seals with modified designs are extant in sheets of 25 in the years around 1948. Can anyone provide any historical information?

Meeting Shorts

A great suggestion was made to include short technical presentations at the club meetings. This would consist of introductory instruction for new collectors and review information for intermediate hobbyists.

These short programs will begin in February with Brian Wagner demonstrating how to make stamp album pages with one's personal computer."

In the following months, Paul Petersen will demonstrate •Measuring & cuttin plastic mounts and •Removing the unsoakable stamps from paper.

Instructors are needed for the following topics: •Watermarking; •Using the perforation gauge; and •Operating the UV lights. What else is needed? Suggestions?

The format is simple. These short programs will be held following the educational program toward the end of the evening. Those not interested in participating are free to go home.

January Minutes and Treasury

Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

Opening: Incoming President Len Kasper opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. He announced a Board meeting for 7:00 p.m. on 13 January at Lucy Eyster's apartment.

Membership: Lucy announced two new members: Charles DiComo of Hempfield who collects classic U.S. and Brian Wagner of Millersville who collects world-wide, Germany, UK, Scandinavia, and British Africa. Several members still owe dues for 2014. She read letters from out-of-town members who renewed their membership with pleasure. Retired postmaster of Elizabethtown, George Shuman, passed away.

Minutes: The minutes of November (including the October Treasury Report) as contained in the December newsletter and the November Treasury Report as contained in the January newsletter were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Drawing: Philatelic items were won by Betty Lutz and Greg Macaluso.

Old Business: None

New Business: Dick Shaefer moved that PSLC donate \$100 to APS in memory of longtime

club member Marilyn Shirley. Lou DiFelice moved that PSLC donate \$250 to Woodcrest Villa in gratitude for the use of this facility for club meetings. Both motions were seconded and unanimously approved.

Lancopex: Lou DiFelice and Dick Shaefer, co-chairmen of the show provided updates for the event and fielded questions. To date there are eight (8) dealers on board for the show. Twenty (20) dealers are needed to break even.

Linn's Stamp Poll: Lucy had ballots and stamp illustrations for club members to vote for their favorite stamp(s). If we vote as a block, PSLC will be mentioned in *Linn's*.

Philatelic Literature: Lucy identified several philatelic magazines for members to take. She also held up the most recent issue of *Topical Time* for members to borrow.

Local Shows: Paul Petersen reminded members of the 24-25 January York Stamp Show, and Lesley Botte announced the 16 February Sunday Stamp Show at the Farm and Home Center.

Meeting Site Extension: Lucy Eyster received a letter

from Woodcrest Villa that we have been approved for 2014.

Summer Club Picnic: Paul announced that the picnic site in Millersville for the club event has been reserved for 13 August.

2014 Meeting Programs: Paul announced that the year's programs are in place, and he is starting to fill slots for 2015. Members interested in making a presentation or who can recommend a good speaker should contact him. He also solicited ideas for short presentations on collecting topics that will be included in the meetings. Of interest are the use of the perf gauge, watermark determination, removal of unsoakable stamps, and the making of album pages. These will be included in the newsletter listings on page 3 once in place. Club members are invited to attend a no-host dinner for March speaker, Bill Schultz. More to come on this.

January Program: The January program was the Winter Auction.

Treasury Report

Opening: \$5,316.55 (1 Dec)

Income: \$930.00

Expenses: \$544.38

Closing: \$5,702.17 (31 Dec)

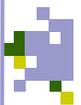
3-CDs valued at \$6,869.04



APS Visit

Three PSLC members took advantage of a clear winter day on 23 December to trek to Bellefonte to visit the American Philatelic Center. Available at APS were the APRL, circuit sales, the Stamp & Cover Shop, expertizing, the local town eateries, and much more. APS tours are always available.

← Seated: Joy Bouchard, PSLC Secretary. Standing (Left to right): Richard Nakles, APS Donations Manager; Ken Martin, APS Executive Director; Paul Petersen, APS Representative for PSLC; and James Ziogas, PSLC Auction Committee.



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Shows, People & Work

2014 Programs

12 February: 1.) APS Video: Canal Zone Gems. 2.) Making Album Pages-Brian Wagner. Joy Bouchard, Host

12 March: 1.) The Westtown Locals-Bill Schultz. 2.) Using Plastic Mounts-Paul Petersen Dick Shaefer, Host

9 April: 1.) The Patriot Postal Cards of the 1970-1980s. John Brownell. 2.) Lancopex advert card preparation for show. John and Deb Ehleiter, Hosts

14 May: Spring Auction. Bill and Truylde Greiner, Hosts

11 June: Rogue River Mailboat. Bob Brown. Paul Petersen, Host

9 July: U.S. International Philatelic Expo Stamps, Covers, Labels & More, Paul Petersen. James Ziogas, Host

13 August: Club Family Picnic

10 September: Fall Auction. Lucy Eyster, Host

08 October: Great Britain Inland Airmail Service: 1935-1937. Mike Bach. Fred Sargent and Fred Mackey, Hosts

12 November: Open House, One-Page Exhibits, and Your Best Stuff Extravaganza. Len Kasper. Bob Paire, Host

10 December: Dinner

2014 Local Shows

Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: Farm & Home Center, Lancaster. 16 Feb 2014, 22 June, 17 Aug, 5 Oct, 7 Dec. Kevin Kellman (K²), Manager; 301-371-4558

Philadelphia National Stamp Exposition: 4-6 April, Expo Center, Egypt Rd. Oaks, PA

Lancopex: 25-26 April at the Farm & Home Center

People

Club member **Doug Milligan** is the 2014 President of the Lancaster County (PA) Postcard Club. This organization meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Farm & Home Center.

Dinner with Speaker

There will be a sign-up for those interested in attending the **no-host dinner** with Bill Schulz (our March speaker) at the Olive Garden Restaurant at 4:15 p.m. on 12 March.

Lancopex Manpower

At the February and March club meetings, there will be manpower sign-ups for 2-hour shifts at **Lancopex** on Fri/Sat, 25-26 April. Help is needed.

Exhibits Needed

Lancopex is coming in April, and the frames are waiting. Last year members filled ten (10) frames with album pages and stock pages to showcase examples of their collections. Comments regarding the subject material and quality were very positive. Let's do as well at this year's show.

Please contact Lou DiFelice, Exhibit Chairman as soon as possible and tell him how many pages/frames you would like to reserve.

In addition to album and stock pages, consider your 1-Page Exhibits from November, and perhaps create another page or two for this show. There is no judging.

And Speaking of Poster Stamps

President Len Kasper referred to collecting poster stamps and other Cinderellas in his column on page-1. As I am starting to gather material for a 9 July Powerpoint on the U.S. International Philatelic Expos, there are many posters stamps for these every-ten-year events. These are in addition to postage stamps and other philatelic items of both foreign and domestic origin. A few are illustrated here. Ed. ☐



Illustrations: To the left-2006; Above top-1936; Above bottom-1926; Pg.4 Top right-1913

Sherman's rant to the sea...

Ed's Note: Sherman Foote sent additional commentary with his response to the Harry Potter query last month (see January issue). He added that he has collected stamps for 70 of his 83 years. So with his permission, his remarks are reproduced below for your reading pleasure...

Mendoza, Cash, and Charles are good subjects, but I don't like being forced into buying a whole sheet. So I cut out a single stamp, and that's what goes in my album. The rest I use as postage.

Made in America is another "Hit the collector" idea. I bought just one example for the stamps, not the selvage.

Inverted Jenny: This is yet another "Hit the collector" item. How does the USPS think a \$12 souvenir sheet is going to entice young collectors into the hobby? Do potential collectors have an extra twelve bucks they can use to buy this item? The other thing that really grabs in my craw is putting out that **USPS-made "error"** and mixing it in with a couple million sheets. This doesn't even belong in the *Scott's Catalogue* in my opinion.

Medal of Honor: This is another great idea to honor our veterans of which I am one, but a two page folder? Again, I will mount just the first page in my album and use the back side for postage. This is another "Hit the collector."

I used to collect **Australia, Spain, and France**, but because of their excessive issues, I have completely stopped new issue collecting. Now I only collect definitives from Canada and England as before. This is because of their excessive number of commemoratives.

Lastly, the worst thing USPS has done is to eliminate the **soakability** of our stamps. This will not help to sign-up new collectors. It renders soaking more difficult and time consuming. I'm not a happy camper right now. The Postmaster General is ignoring the **Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee** which has worked well in the past. Things will only get more complicated as time passes by.

Sherman Foote



Musings: February-2014

George Washington's first first-flight cover

And just what did George Washington have to do with a 1793 first flight cover in Philadelphia? PSLC Newsletter reader, Jim Strycharz submitted an interesting anniversary cover to the editor (illustrated). It is a common business envelope from the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co. (Philadelphia, 10, PA) dated 9 January 1947 and franked with a 1946 C32 DC-4 Skymaster 5¢ airmail stamp. The cachet was made with a rubber stamp employing a red-pink ink which is a little difficult to read.



Contained within the cover are three pieces of mimeographed correspondence which were part of the 154th anniversary celebrated on the cover. These include a letter from Eric Johnson, the VP of Penn Mutual (dtd 9 January 1947), a letter from Carl Spatz, Commanding General of the Army Air Forces (dtd 9 January 1947), and a page containing some of the details of the flight plus the text (noting a seal and signature) of a letter from George Washington dated 9 January 1793.

Let me summarize the content of these letters and employ a little help from the internet to fill in some of the holes of this cover's story.

M. Jean Pierre Blanchard (1753-1809) was a French inventor, and

among other exploits, he made one of the first balloon flights in history, this being in Paris on 2 November 1784. By the time he arrived in the young U.S.A., he was a world celebrity for his many air journeys in several European countries including the crossing of the English Channel. At one time he had to jump with a parachute to save his life.

Blanchard made his first balloon flight in America on 9 January 1793. He took off from the Old Walnut Street Prison and traveled south for about 20 miles, landing in Deptford, NJ. In attendance were George Washington and future presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. This was a big deal, a major event of its day. Blanchard remained in the States until returning to Paris in 1797. In 1808 he had a heart attack while in his balloon, fell from it, and died a year later in the Hague from his severe injuries. His wife, Sophie (Blanchard) followed his career. Ballooning for the rich and famous (i.e. Napoleon Bonaparte and Louis XVIII), she received many awards and accolades before her own fatal balloon accident on 6 July 1819.

Regarding the 1947 154th anniversary cover, the Penn Mutual Ins. Co. at 530 Walnut Street, sat on the sight of Blanchard's 1773

ascend from the prison yard. Penn Mutual's president, John Stevenson flew in a helicopter over Blanchard's 1793 route from Philadelphia to Deptford along with the covers and letters. General Spatz's letter told of this anniversary flight, and VP Eric Johnson's letter encouraged the company's agents to give the covers to policy holders who were stamp collectors.

The crude cachet shows a depiction of the balloon launch in 1793 on the right with a helicopter (on the left) circling the Penn Mutual Building 154 years later. The bottom line displays the name Joseph Gallagher, Postmaster.



There are some interesting historical correlates in this story. General Spatz's letter cites Benjamin Franklin's concern's over Blanchard's flight, the potential use of air flight in war and the difficulty it will cause for protecting one's borders. He echoed Ben Franklin's fear through

a post-WWII perspective; it was just 17 months following Hiroshima. Necessarily, he was troubled about the potential for human obliteration that might result from another war.



Let's get back to George Washington. He was in attendance with the other dignitaries at lift-off. But more than this, he wrote a letter of introduction for M. Blanchard to assist him at the time of his landing.

The way his letter appears in the text is one written on presidential letterhead with seal and signature. Its purpose was to request safety, sustenance, and other aid as needed to accommodate M. Blanchard from those in the vicinity of his landing site. It is beautifully written in 126 words or so, and I cannot do it justice. This just may be the first "first-flight" cover on the very first flight in America. Ed. ☐



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